

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 05271 01 OF 02 081606Z

51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11

CIEP-02 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 A-01 M-02 IO-14 AGR-20 SCI-06 HEW-08

NEA-14 DEAE-00 SNM-02 PPT-02 SCA-01 DRC-01 /226 W
----- 042003

R 080949Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9803
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 5271

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJ: LPF CHAIRMAN SOUPHANOUVONG MEETS AMERICAN
OFFICIALS AND ATTENDS JULY 4 RECEPTION IN
LUANG PRABANG

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG HELD ONE-HOUR DIS-
CUSSION WITH USAID AREA COORDINATOR IN LUANG PRABANG,
DURING WHICH USAID PROJECTS IN AREA AND SOUPHANOUVONG'S
VIEWS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WERE DISCUSSED. SOUPHANOU-
VONG STRESSED THAT OVERALL POLITICAL/ECONOMIC GUIDELINES
HAD TO BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE NATIONAL PROBLEMS COULD BE
ADDRESSED. HE EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT WITH PRESENT
REFUGEE PROGRAM AND SAID ONLY SOLUTION WAS FOR LARGER
NUMBER OF REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL HOMES.
MEETING WAS CORDIAL THROUGHOUT. A FEW DAYS LATER,
SOUPHANOUVONG ATTENDED AREA COORDINATOR'S JULY 4 RECEPTION,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 05271 01 OF 02 081606Z

STAYING 90 MINUTES AND DISCUSSING SAME GENERAL AID AND

DEVELOPMENT TOPICS. LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT SOUPHANOUVONG'S ATTENDANCE INDICATED OFFICIAL LPF APPROVAL OF AMERICAN PRESENCE IN LUANG PRABANG. END SUMMARY.

1. PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, CHAIRMAN OF JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL (JNPC) AND HEAD OF LPF, GRANTED ONE-HOUR AUDIENCE TO USAID AREA COORDINATOR (LOUIS CONNICK) AND HIS STAFF IN LUANG PRABANG JULY 1. THIS IS FIRST MEETING BETWEEN SOUPHANOUVONG AND US OFFICIALS IN TEN YEARS, EXCEPT FOR SOCIAL CONTACTS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM AREA COORDINATOR'S REPORT ON MEETING.

2. "THE ONE-HOUR MEETING WAS HELD IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ROYAL GUEST HOUSE OPPOSITE THE PALACE WHICH HAS BEEN RENOVATED AS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PERMANENT BUREAU OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL. THE PRINCE, WHO WAS UNACCOMPANIED, WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND INFORMAL (WHISKY WAS SERVED), LISTENED CAREFULLY AND GAVE A FRANK IF SOMEWHAT LIMITED EXPOSE OF HIS VIEWS ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. "I TOLD THE PRINCE THAT THE AMBASSADOR AND DIRECTOR MANN HOPED TO MEET WITH HIM IN LUANG PRABANG TO DISCUSS THE OVERALL US AID PROGRAM. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THEIR WISH AND WELCOMED SUCH A MEETING, BUT COULD NOT ARRANGE IT VERY SOON. HE SAID HE HAD AN EXTREMELY FULL SCHEDULE THROUGH JULY 15 AND THEN PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO SAM NEUA AND OTHER UNSPECIFIED POINTS OF INTEREST.

4. "I TOLD THE PRINCE HOW MANY AMERICANS WERE ON OUR STAFF AND WHAT EACH OF THEM DID. I REVIEWED THE EXISTING PROCESS FOR GENERATING, REVIEWING, APPROVING AND IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS, STRESSING USAID'S COMPLETELY SECONDARY ADVISORY ROLE IN THE PROCESS. GARY BAYER THEN REVIEWED THE PROJECTS COMPLETED LAST DRY SEASON AND THOSE PROPOSED FOR NEXT. FRANK BEWETZ DISCUSSED THE SELF-HELP APPROACH AND EXPLAINED SEVERAL TECHNICAL PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY BRICK-MAKING AND WATER DELIVERY SYSTEMS. WE THEN REVIEWED SEVERAL LOCAL PROBLEM AREAS--HELPING REFUGEES TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AND RETURN HOME, ASSURING COORDINATION AMONG THE GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL AGENCIES SUPPORTING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 05271 01 OF 02 081606Z

THE REFUGEE AND DEMOBILIZED VETERANS PROGRAMS, PROJECTS APPROVED AND THEN STOPPED IN LPF-CONTROLLED VILLAGES.

5. "THE PRINCE ASKED SEVERAL DETAILED QUESTIONS ON OUR ASSISTANCE TO PIG AND BUFFALO RAISERS ASSOCIATIONS. HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY PLEASED BY AND INTERESTED IN THESE PROJECTS. HE INDICATED THAT THE AIMS OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM WERE NOT CLEAR OR SUFFICIENTLY LONG-RANGED

AND THEREFORE THE RESULTS WERE UNSATISFACTORY. HE FELT THAT THE BEST SOLUTION WAS FOR A LARGER NUMBER TO RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL HOMES. HE CLEARLY DID NOT AGREE WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PLAN TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL VILLAGES FOR VETERANS. HE ASKED WHO HAD STOPPED THE USAID SCHOOL-BUILDING PROJECT IN THE BAN HAI KHAM AND SEEMED SURPRISED WHEN WE SAID IT WAS THE LPF CHAO KHOUENG IN NAM BAC.

6. "THE PRINCE SAID THAT BEFORE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF NATIONAL PROBLEMS COULD BE ADDRESSED PROPERLY, IT WAS FIRST NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH CLEARLY-DEFINED POLITICAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES WHICH THE WHOLE COUNTRY COULD UNDERSTAND, ACCEPT AND PURSUE. THE ABSENCE OF SUCH A FRAMEWORK HAS CAUSED PROBLEMS: FRAGMENTATION OF EFFORT, LACK OF COORDINATION, PURSUIT OF SELFISH AND PAROCHIAL RATHER THAN NATIONAL INTERESTS. THERE MUST BE A CHANGE OF SPIRIT AND OUTLOOK THROUGH OUT THE GOVERNMENT. THE ENTIRE FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE GUIDELINES, AND CONSIDERABLE TIME AND EFFORT IS BEING SPENT NOW TO INSURE THEY ARE UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED BY THE POPULATION. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WOULD BE GENERATED BOTH FROM ABOVE BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND FROM THE GRASS ROOTS. PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE LATTER. IT IS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PREPARE ITS SHOPPING LIST, BY PRIORITIES, AND ONLY THEN TO TURN TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES FOR ASSISTANCE. AID FROM ALL COUNTRIES IS ACCEPTABLE SO LONG AS IT FITS IN WITH THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, IS DISINTERESTED OR APOLITICAL. THE PRINCE STRESSED THE NEED TO HAVE ALL USAID'S PROJECTS DISCUSSED AND APPROVED IN VIENTIANE. I ASSURED HIM THIS WAS ALREADY THE CASE.

7. "TURNING TO AGRICULTURE, THE PRINCE SAID FULLER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 VIENTI 05271 01 OF 02 081606Z

UTILIZATION, ACCORDING TO SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES, SHOULD BE MADE OF AVAILABLE LAND. MORE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN THE RANGE OF CROPS SUITED TO PARTICULAR SOIL CONDITIONS, THE ROTATION OF CROPS, ETC. THERE WAS NO REASON, HE SAID, WHY ANY GOOD LAND SHOULD GO UNUSED. HE SPOKE OUT STRONGLY AGAINST TIMBER EXPLOITATION AND SAID THE EXPLOITERS SHOULD BE JAILED, AS THEY ARE ON THE LPF SIDE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 05271 02 OF 02 081335Z

51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11

CIEP-02 SR-02 ORM-03 A-01 M-02 IO-14 AGR-20 SCI-06

HEW-08 NEA-14 DEAE-00 SNM-02 PPT-02 SCA-01 DRC-01

/152 W

----- 040541

R 080949Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9804

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 5271

8. "IN EDUCATION, THE PRINCE STRESSED THREE NEEDS--MORE LAO PROFESSORS TRAINED AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL IN SUBJECTS OF IMPORTANCE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MORE AND BETTER TEACHING OF FOREIGN AND LOCAL ETHNIC LANGUAGES, AND MORE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. THE LATTER SHOULD BE AT PRACTICAL AND NOT TOO THEORETICAL A LEVEL, AND THOSE TRAINED MUST BE USED FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IN THE RURAL AREAS.

9. "SINCE THE INTERVIEW HAD LASTED MORE THAN ONE HOUR, I MADE THE MOVE TO TERMINATE IT, ALTHOUGH THE PRINCE SEEMED PREPARED TO CONTINUE. I PURPOSELY AVOIDED POLITICAL TOPICS, SUCH AS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO LPF-CONTROLLED VILLAGES, ETC. THE PRINCE VOLUNTEERED THE COMMENT, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT AGAINST THE AMERICANS OR THE USAID PROGRAM, ONLY OUR PAST MILITARY INVOLVEMENT. I EXPRESSED MY GRATITUDE TO THE PRINCE FOR WHAT I SAID HAD BEEN A MOST USEFUL INTRODUCTORY MEETING. I ASKED IF I MIGHT REQUEST ANOTHER INTERVIEW IN FUTURE SHOULD THERE BE SOME POINT OF INTEREST OR DIFFICULTY TO DISCUSS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 05271 02 OF 02 081335Z

HE SAID I SHOULD FEEL FREE TO DO SO AND THAT HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO OUR MEETING AGAIN."

10. SOUPHANOUVONG AND BOTH DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF JNPC, KHAMSOUK LEOLA AND SISAUMANG SISALEUMSAK, ALSO ATTENDED AREA COORDINATOR'S JULY 4 RECEPTION, STAYING FOR 90 MINUTES. FOLLOWING ARE POINTS OF INTEREST ON SOUPHANOUVONG'S ATTENDANCE:

11. "THE INVITATION WAS FOR 1830-2030 HOURS. TIAO SISOU MANG ARRIVED AT 1845. TIAO SOUPHANOUVONG AND KHAMSOUK ARRIVED AT 1900 AND ALL THREE LEFT AT 2030 HOURS. A SPECIAL CORNER HAD BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THEM. THE OTHER LAO GUESTS WERE OBVIOUSLY SURPRISED AND PLEASED THAT THE PRINCE HAD ATTENDED, ALTHOUGH PRACTICALLY NONE OF THEM CAME OVER TO GREET HIM OR TO CONVERSE WITH HIM, INCLUDING MAYOR BOUNKHONG. SEVERAL GUESTS COMMENTED THAT, BY ATTENDING, THE PRINCE HAD INDICATED OFFICIAL LPF APPROVAL OF THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN LUANG PRABANG. DR. JACOB STURZENEGGER, HEAD OF THE SWISS MEDICAL TEAM, FELT THE GESTURE WAS MOST REASSURING, CALLED IT A 'COUP' ON OUR PART.

12. "THE ONLY GUEST TO TALK WITH THE THREE WERE DR. STURZENEGGER, WHO CHATTED WITH TIAO SISOU MANG ABOUT MEDICAL PROBLEMS; THE AREA COORDINATOR AND GARY BAYER, WHO DISCUSSED VARIOUS LOCAL ISSUES AND PROGRAMS WITH TIAO SOUPHANOUVONG.

13. "BAYER'S CONVERSATION WAS A CONTINUATION OF OUR CONVERSATION DURING THE INTERVIEWS MONDAY OF ANIMAL RAISING PROJECTS. THE AREA COORDINATOR DISCUSSED THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THE LPF ZONE, THE ISRAELI TEAM'S VISIT TO MUONG NAME TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A VETERAN'S VILLAGE, HIPPIE TOURISTS AND THEIR HARMFUL INFLUENCE ON THE LOCAL POPULATION. THE PRINCE AND KHAMSOUK AGREED THAT THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH GOOD LAND AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE NUMBER OF DISPLACED PEOPLE IN LUANG PRABANG. THEY FELT A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THEM SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO RETURN HOME STARTING LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. THEY FELT BOTH SIDES SHOULD COOPERATE TO ENSURE THEIR ORDERLY RETURN, RECEPTION AND ASSISTANCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 05271 02 OF 02 081335Z

ON THE LPF SIDE. PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED THE ISRAELI HAD FOUND MUONG NANE HAD LIMITED POSSIBILITIES AS A RESETTLEMENT AREA. HE EXPRESSED HIS DISMAY AT THE NUMBER OF OPIUM DENS IN LUANG PRABANG AND THE HIPPIES'S ABUSE OF VILLAGE HOSPITALITY. HE FELT APPROPRIATE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN BETTER SCREENING OF APPLICATIONS FOR VISAS AND IN CONTROLLING THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF HIPPIE VISITORS."
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI05271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740180-1054
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740767/aaaacfdn.tel
Line Count: 277
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GEE PROGRAM AND SAID ONLY SOLUTION W, AS FOR LARGER
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by shawdg>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2005 by powellba2>; RELEASED <17 JUN 2005 by powellba2>; APPROVED <20 JUN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LPF CHAIRMAN SOUPHANOUVONG MEETS AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND ATTENDS JULY 4 RECEPTION IN
TAGS: PFOR, LA, US, LPF, (SOUPHANOUVONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005